

ELABorations



Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau
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February 2011

EPA Hosts Webinar Series on Laboratory Measurement

The EPA's Forum on Environmental Measurement will host three webinar presentations entitled:
"Flexible Approaches to Environmental Measurement: What You Should Know."

The discussions will focus on the Performance Based Measurement System which allows laboratories to validate alternative methods to the EPA methods published in federal rule.

The scheduled webinars will be held **February 15, February 23** and **March 3**, 2011 (1:00-3:00 pm ET).

This webinar series is designed to share EPA's framework for flexibility and quality in environmental measurement outlined within the Performance Based Measurement System across program offices. To view and hear this event, you must log-in to the webinar link and dial the call-in number, 866-299-3188 (5874952464#). To access the webinar, visit EPA's [web conferencing site](#) and enter the six-digit conference ID (a listing will be available), type your username and click "join." The call-in line and webinar will open at 12:30 pm (ET). Participants should contact Lara Autry at 919-541-5544 or autry.lara@epa.gov for more information.

Certification of Drinking Water Laboratories

During the **Montana Rural Water System annual conference** on February 24, 2011 in Great Falls, the **Montana Laboratory Services Bureau** will host a short session from 5 to 6 p.m. for Montana certified laboratories. The purpose of the session is to present proposed rule changes for Licensure of Laboratories Conducting Analyses of Public Water Supplies (Administrative Rules of Montana Title 37, Chapter 12, Subchapter 3[37.12.301 – 37.12.346]). The rules were last updated in 2003.

If you would like more information about this session, please e-mail Russell Leu at rleu2@mt.gov.

National Ground Water Awareness Week Public Health is a Key Focus

Groundwater is an important source of drinking water for many Montanans, as well as a source of water for industry and irrigation. Groundwater stewardship is critical to sound public health policy and practice, and there's no better time to educate the public about it than National Ground Water Awareness Week, **March 6-12, 2011**.

"Every person's habits can positively or negatively affect groundwater quality," said Cliff Treyens, public awareness director for the National Ground Water Association, which sponsors the awareness week. "When people's habits negatively affect groundwater, it's a public health issue because more than 40 percent of America's population depends on groundwater."

Health officials can point the public to the Ground Water Awareness Week Web page (link below), where citizens can click on "Groundwater Stewardship" for easy steps to protect groundwater whether they are on a household well or public water system.

<http://www.ngwa.org/public/awarenessweek/index.aspx>